What is claimed is:

1. A critical care workstation, comprising:

a display device;

a processor, coupled to the display device, executing:

a general purpose operating system, controlling execution of a selected non-real-time application program for displaying images representing non-real-time data on the display device; and

a real-time kernel, controlling execution of a process for displaying images representing real-time data on the display device simultaneously with the display of the non-real-time data; and

circuitry, responsive to user input, for selecting the non-real-time display program from among a plurality of available non-real-time display programs.

2. The workstation of claim 1 wherein the general purpose operating system executes simultaneous with and independent from the real-time kernel.

3. The workstation of claim 1 further comprising a storage device, coupled to the processor, wherein the plurality of available non-real-time application programs are stored on the storage device and the general purpose operating system selects one of the stored plurality of non-real-time application programs in response to the user input.

4. The workstation of claim 3 wherein the storage device stores code and data representing the non-real-time application program and the processor retrieves the stored code and data

representing the selected non-real-time application and controls the execution of the retrieved code and data.

5. The workstation of claim 1 further comprising a connection to a network comprising a server capable of storing the plurality of non-real-time application programs and the general purpose operating system selects one of the stored plurality of non-real-time application programs in response to the user input.

6. The workstation of claim 5 wherein the server stores code and data representing the non-real-time application program and the processor retrieves the stored code and data representing the selected non-real-time application and controls the execution of the retrieved code and data.

7. The workstation of claim 1, wherein the real-time data is physiological data.